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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05544 211124Z

10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SSM-05

/082 W
---------- 079036
P R 211056Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9213
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5544

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, EG
SUBJECT: AUGUST 21 MEDIA REPORTS SYRIAN ROLE AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, LEBANON AND ATTACKS SADAT

1. COLOMBO SUMMIT:

TODAY'S MEDIA FOCUSED ON COLOMBO SUMMIT, EMPHASIZING THAT ASAD'S MANY MEETINGS WITH OTHER DELEGATION CHIEFS DEMONSTRATES SYRIA'S "HIGH STANDING AND EFFECTIVE ROLE ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS." MEDIA FOUND SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE TEXTS OF COLOMBO STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

2. LEBANON:

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05544 211124Z

MEDIA ALSO FEATURED YESTERDAY'S SERMON AT BALBAAK

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MOSQUE BY IMAM MUSA AL-SADR PRAISING SYRIAN
SACRIFICES AND ASAD'S FIRMNESS IN THE FACE OF ATTEMPTS
TO PARTITION LEBANON.

3. ONLY REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE ARAB SUMMIT ABOUT LEBANON
WAS IN AL-THAWRA WHICHMENTIONED THAT SARKIS WOULD REPRE-
SENT LEBANON AT THE SUMMIT, "IF IT IS IS HELD." (COMMENT:
THUSFAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT ON SYRIAN INTENTIONS
ABOUT ATTENDING THE SUMMIT IF HELD.)

4. EGYPT:

MEDIA CARRIED TWO ARTICLES CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT SADAT,
ONE OF WHICH DETAILED PRESIDENT' ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT
OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND HINTED THAT PRESIDENT HAD BEEN BEHIND
ASSASSINATION OF CAIRO FINANCIAL INSPECTOR WHO HAD
IMPLICATED HIM IN THIS MATTER. IN MAJOR ARTICLE ENTITLED,
"SADT'S PLAY ACTING." AL-THAWRA ATTACKED SINAI AGREEMENT
FOR HAVING FROZEN PROSPECTS OF MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.
WRITER HELD SADAT PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING
SURRENDERED AN ESSENTIAL RIGHT OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE,
I.E., ARMED STRUGGLE.
MURPHY

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